

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 INR-05 PM-03 PA-01
SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /042 W
-----017280 141048Z /21
P 141014Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9004
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PPRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3063

LIMDIS

E.O. 11562: XGDS-4
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, IR, ET
SUBJ: IRANIANS CONSIDERING CLOSING EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA

REF: TEHRAN 6680

1. APART FROM WELL-KNOWN BILATERAL POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA NAD IRAN, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EXTRA-ORDINARY HARASSMENT OF IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN ADDIS ABABA. WE WOULD EXPECT ANY SUCH DELIBERATE HARRASSMENT (WHICH THE ETHIOPIANS ARE CERTAINLY CAPABLE OF AS DEMONSTRATED IN THEIR TREATMENT OF SUDANESE AND SOMALI DIPLOMATS IN EARLY 1977) TO BE QUITE OVERT, UNSUBTLE AND ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANTI-IRANIAN PRESS CAMPAIGN.

2. DIFFICULTIES SUFFERED BY IRANIANS HERE DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL ARE TO SOME EXTENT EXPERIENCED BY ALL EMBASSIES. IRANIAN DIFFICULTIES PROBABLY CONSIDERABLY EXACERBATED BY EXTREMELY ABRASIVE BEHAVIOR OF IRANIAN CHARGE TOWARD HIS STAFF AND HIS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ETHIOPIANS IN GENERAL. EMBASSY AWARE OF HIS TREATMENT OF HIS STAFF BY VIRTUE OF FACT THAT WIFE OF EMBASSY COMMUNICATOR WAS CHARGE'S PERSONAL SECRETARY FOR APPROXIMATELY
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THREE WEEKS BEFORE SHE QUIT, UNABLE TO TAKE HIS PERSONAL ABUSE AND SHORT TEMPER. IN SHORT, BELIEVE THAT DIFFICULTIES SUFFERED BY IRANIAN CHARGE' HERE ARE PRIMARILY OF HIS OWN MAKING.

3. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN IRAN'S OWN INTERESTS - AS WELL AS THOSE OF WEST - FOR IRAN TO MAINTAIN A

PRESENCE HERE. ANY IRANIAN DECISION TO CLOSE WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY ETHIOPIANS AS FURTHER OVERT HOSTILITY ON PART OF SHAH, AND IT IS ALWAYS MORE DIFFICULT TO REOPEN A MISSION ONCE CLOSED. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION TO CLOSING IS MOST LIKELY PROMPTED BY REPORTING OF ITS CHARGE' WHICH WE SUSPECT IS OFTEN SUBSTANTIVELY UNRELIABLE AS WELL. IN OUR OPINION, HE IS NEITHER SERVING HIS OWN COUNTRY OR THE CAUSE OF ITS FRIENDS IN ETHIOPIA. RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO EMBASSIES ARE, NEVERTHELESS, VERY GOOD.
CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS03063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780288-1100
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabzfz.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 271d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 6680
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2012649
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIANS CONSIDERING CLOSING EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, IR, ET
To: STATE TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/271d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014